

The Process

City of Alexandria
Department of Planning and Zoning

A Vision for the Arlandria Neighborhood

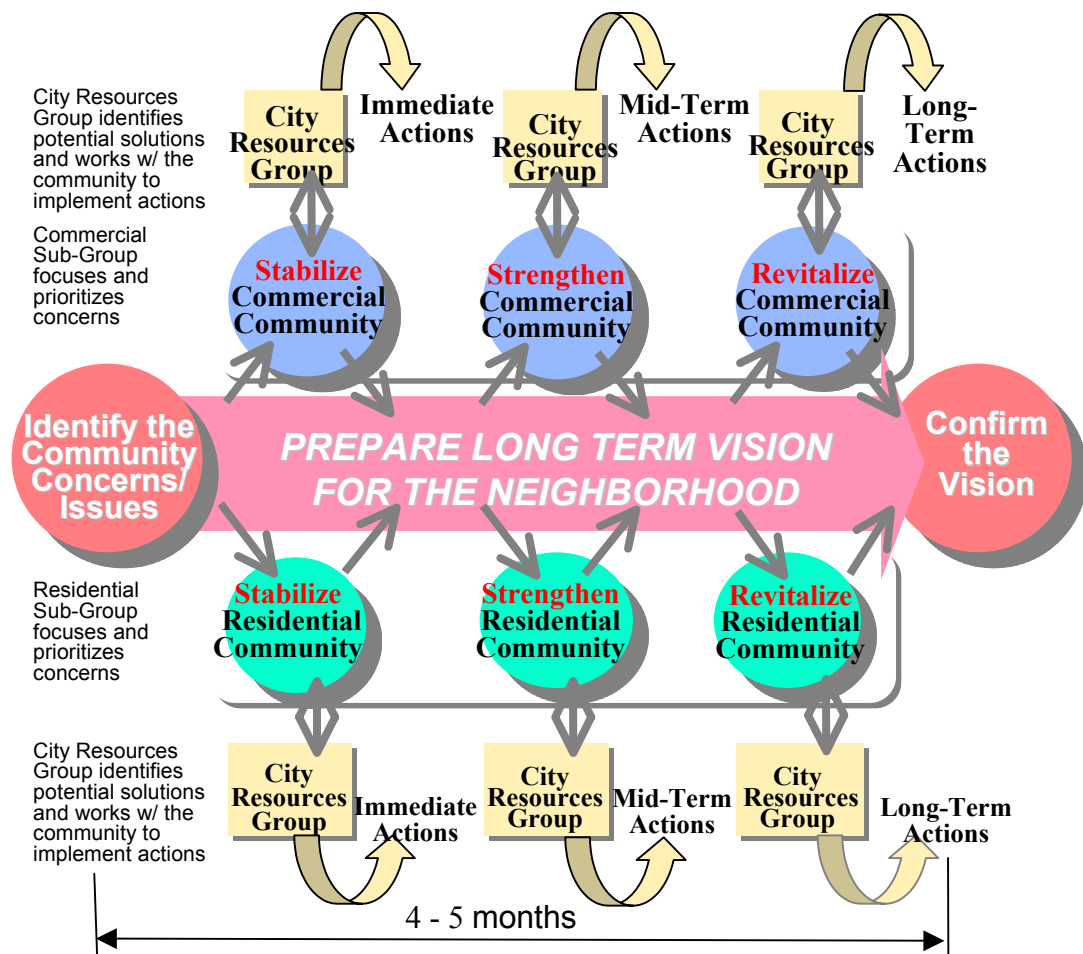
Neighborhood Planning for Arlandria Neighborhood

In January of 2002, the City Council met to review the status of the Safeway/Datatel and East Reed Avenue studies and to discuss on-going planning for the Arlandria neighborhood. The Council approved a multi-pronged program to create a long-term vision for the future of the neighborhood and to identify current issues with a program of short, mid and long-term actions to address neighborhood concerns.

The City Manager appointed the Upper Potomac West Work Group (the Committee) to advise and assist the Department Staff in preparing the long-term Vision.

A residential and a commercial sub-group were selected from the Committee to identify the neighborhood concerns and to work with a City Resources Group, composed of City staff from a number of departments, to craft solutions that could mitigate the community concerns and be realistically accomplished in the immediate, mid or longer-term.

The intent of the planning process was to proceed with the visioning process to assure that solutions to current issues were consistent with the community's long range vision for the neighborhood.



A Vision for the Arlandria Neighborhood

The Arlandria Neighborhood Study Area

The Study area is roughly a triangular plot bounded on the north by Four Mile Run, on the southwest by W. Glebe Road and on the east by a line approximately 400' east of Mt. Vernon Avenue. The Committee felt that the automobile oriented development surrounding the intersection of Mt. Vernon Avenue and W. Glebe Road was an important contributor to the neighborhood and should be included in the Study Area.



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The Arlandria Neighborhood Planning Process

A workshop planning process was proposed to facilitate the creation of the Vision for the Arlandria Neighborhood. Three major workshops have been accomplished.

Workshop No. 1

Held on February 7, 2002 the first workshop was devoted to reviewing some of the basic attributes of the neighborhood and reviewing important input from the Safeway/Datatel Task Force, but the most important aspect of the initial workshop was identifying the problems and concerns and the prioritization of the most important issues on which to focus. The Committee divided into two groups, the business sub-group and the residential sub-group, to address short-term issues relating to the real estate development and social issues that face the neighborhood.

Workshop No. 2

On March 21, 2002 the second workshop was held with the specific goal of allowing the community to have a “hands on” opportunity to participate in the planning of the neighborhood. Following a review of the Committee’s input at the prior workshop three teams were formed. The Staff provided base maps, photographs and support, for each of the teams to identify their concepts for the long-term neighborhood vision. At the end of the workshop, each of the teams presented their thoughts and ideas to the entire group.

Workshop No. 3

On May 16, 2002 the third workshop was held to begin the process of

consolidating the thoughts put forth by the Committee at the last workshop and to review initial thoughts prepared by the staff about the Vision, using an Illustrative Plan as a planning tool.

Follow-up Workshops

The Vision for the neighborhood was defined in a series of goals and objectives and design/ development principles to guide the future development within Arlandria. The Illustrative Plans document one way that the principles can be applied to the revitalization and redevelopment of the neighborhood.



Workshop No. 1